

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7840 • Fax: 517-373-3932
E-mail: senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD38



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 22, 2004

Contact: Sen. Mike Prusi
Phone: 517-373-7840
Toll Free: 866-305-2038

**COUNTY ROAD 511 TO RECEIVE UPGRADES FOR
HALQUIST STONE EXPANSION**

*Sen. Prusi applauds Michigan Transportation Economic Development
Fund's work to strengthen U.P. economy*

LANSING – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) today expressed his appreciation to the Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) and the Granholm Administration for their recognition of Halquist Stone's importance to the Upper Peninsula's economy. As a result of a \$658,500 TEDF Grant, County Road 511 will receive necessary upgrades making the road capable of providing unrestricted loading during seasonal weight restrictions. The total costs of the project will be \$1,118,500 with the remainder funded through state and local dollars and private investment.

"The upgrades for County Road 511 will assist Halquist Stone in their efforts to expand and create new jobs," Sen. Prusi said. "These improvements will also help the local community attract development by other companies and promote job growth."

Halquist Stone is the largest producer of Lannon stone, which has become a popular stone used for houses and churches. The TEDF Grant will be used to reconstruct, widen, improve intersections, and resurface County Road 511 to provide a cross section capable of handling greater loads during frost season. The improvements will allow Halquist to continue with its \$1 million in investment for expansion—creating 30 new jobs. In late May, Bay de Noc Township received a \$213,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to assist Halquist in the purchase of nearly \$450,000 in additional equipment.

"Halquist Stone's expansion is bringing needed jobs to our community," Sen. Prusi said. "I applaud the Granholm Administration's continued commitment to growing our economy."

###

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.